



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Guatemala City, Guatemala



Intensely knowledgeable about Guatemalan issues, the region, and the Washington policy context, the Ambassador and deputy chief of mission were assertive and effective in advancing U.S. objectives. Embassy Guatemala City had outstanding interagency relations, especially among those agencies and Department sections involved in counternarcotics. The narcotics affairs section itself was implementing a complex and multifaceted program to good effect.

While there were some significant achievements, the public diplomacy program of Embassy Guatemala was weak: its program rationale was flawed, and program implementation at times ignored or contradicted Department standards and practices.

The consular section handled with skill the second largest number of adoption cases in the world, and the Embassy persuaded the Guatemalan Government to pass key adoption reform legislation. Severe physical space constraints plagued the consular section.

Embassy Guatemala City was suffering from management and management control weaknesses, including unauthorized commitments and possible fiscal irregularities that reflect neglect going back many years.